(d) The cost escalation in these delayed projects comes to about 16.18%.

[English]

Unofficial Trade With Pakistan

2719. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in *Statesman* dated June 14,1996 under captioned "Concern over unofficial trade with Pakistan";

(b) whether the unofficial trade between India and Pakistan is several times higher than the official trade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the unofficial trade between both the countries and to boost official trade with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to make any reliable assessment of the volume ot unofficial trade.

(c) Trade between India and Pakistan is hampered by Pakistan Government's restrictive policy on imports from India. Pakistan allows imports from India against a unilateral list of 573 items, many of which do not have a real export potential. While India has granted Most Favoured National (MFN) status to Pakistan. Pakistan is vet to accord a similar status to India in contravention of its GATT/WTO obligations. Expansion of Trade with Pakistan will depend mainly on Pakistan granting MFN status to India.

IDBI Assistance to Assam

2720. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected during the above period; and

(c) the details of financial assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The number of applications received, sanctioned and rejected by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from entrepreneurs of Assam during the last three years is as under :

Year	Applications Received	Applications Sanctioned	Applications Rejected
1993-94	14	10	3
1994-95	15	10	-
1995-96	21	17	-

IDBI has reported that incomplete applications and those in which the promoters did not furnish the requisite details were treated as closed. These applications would however be reopened by IDBI as and when promoters furnish the requisite information.

(c) The details of assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Amount Disbursed
1993-94	14.70
1994-95	22.53
1995-96	43.80

Task Force to Evolve Standardised Documents for Tendering

2721. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank had get up a task force to evolve standardised documents for tendering;

(b) if so, whether the task force has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Following the revised procurement guidelines of the World Bank that came into effect from January 1995, the Task Force, as reconstituted in 1995 by this Ministry, is examining the Bank's standard bidding documents with a view to their appropriate indigenisation for use in the World Bank aided projects.

Bank Branches in Kerala

2722. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branches of scheduled banks operating in the country during 1995-96 and 1994-95, separately;